



ASSEMBLYMEMBER NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

April 17, 2006

Hello Friends:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT

Last week, I spent most of my time meeting with various constituents and groups in the District, because the Assembly was on its spring recess.

This recess always helps a great deal, because it allows me to get down in the District for an extended period of time and hear in person and one-on-one the concerns of our residents.

NOW, TO MY WEEK IN THE 30TH

I began the week by meeting with representatives from the **Community Action Partnership of Kern Food Bank**. During this sit-down, I received a full update on the **Food Bank's** progress and their activities. Also, I was really impressed with their goal of raising 100,000 pounds of food this year.

The **Food Bank** is accepting donations of food and monetary contributions as well. I encourage everyone to visit their web site and learn more about the fantastic work this organization does on behalf of our community.

Their web site is <http://www.capk.org/>

I next toured the facilities of **Wildwood Packing & Cooling in Kingsburg**, as the guest of Matthew Woods, whose family owns and operates this produce business.

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Wildwood is in the midst of its lemon processing period, which gave me the opportunity to view the different steps involved in the packing and cooling processes.

After taking a tour of the produce part of their operations, the **Woods family** also walked me through **Wildwood Trucking**, the other component of the family business.

I am grateful to the **Woods family** for taking time out to show me firsthand how one aspect of the agricultural and produce industry operates.

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On a somber note, I also joined hundreds of **Kings County** community members and leaders at the **Glad Tidings Church** for funeral services in memory of **Eva Murillo**. **Eva**, who worked as a victim witness coordinator for the **Kings County Probation Department** recently died in a horrible car accident.

Eva involved herself in a number of different organizations including the **California Victim Witness Coordinating Council**, the **Kings County Domestic Violence Task Force**, the **Child Abuse Death Review Team**, the **Avenal State Prison Citizens Advisory Council**, the **California District Attorney's Association**, and the **Elder Abuse Council**. She also co-founded the **Professional Women's Latinas Association**.

She stood tall as a community activist and is an example of giving of oneself for a greater good. She will truly be missed.

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I would like to especially thank **Lauren Kearn** and **Julian Marin** for providing me with a tour of **HOMAC's Corcoran** manufacturing plant.

This proved a very worthwhile and educational tour, as I had the chance to visit with a number of employees and learn more about the impact of **HOMAC**, which is one of our District's largest manufacturers, specializing in the production of electrical parts and supplies.

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Later in the week, I spent some time meeting with the **Kingsburg Rotary Club**, where I caught up with many of the **Rotary** members.

I would like to thank **Rotary President Scott Carlson** and the membership for their hospitality, as we had the chance to also discuss various business and community affairs, as well.

The **Rotary Club** also honored a number of individuals working in the medical profession, with special guests from the **Kingsburg District Hospital**.

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Judge Brad Hill, from the **Fresno Superior Court** and **Judge Robert Tafoya**, from the **Kern Superior Court**, spoke to me over the phone about the lack of judges in the 30th District. We specifically discussed new legislation that calls for the creation of 50 judges per year for three years – this bill would give our District **twenty-three new judicial positions** for **Kern, Fresno, and Kings Counties** during this three year period.

We also talked about two information technology items in the budget, which would provide over **\$15 million** in much needed services and assistance for our local courts.

Finally, we discussed a budget proposal that my **Budget Sub 4 Committee** will eventually hear – this proposal would call for the expansion of the **State Appropriations Limit** calculation for our trial courts.

I expressed to **Judges Hill** and **Tafoya** my intention to work with them in ensuring that our courts receive the funding and support that they need in order to effectively fulfill the application of our laws.

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I also took some time to meet with **Tulare City Council Members Phil Vandegrift** and **Carleton Jones** to discuss various issues and upcoming items facing the **City of Tulare**.

To find out more about the **Tulare City Council**, please view their web site at <http://www.ci.tulare.ca.us/>

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Toward the end of the week, I sat down with **Corcoran Unified School District** officials including **Superintendent Rich Merlo**, **Lillian Perez**, and **school board members Fred Escalante** and **Sid Palmerin**.

I announced to them my plan to carry a piece of legislation, **AB 2645 (Esmeralda's Law)**, which would require schoolchildren to wear hats during their physical education courses in order to offer protection from overexposure to the sun, which can lead to skin cancer.

This legislation actually came about from a meeting I had with **6th grade students at John Muir Jr. High School**. These students pitched the idea to me and I feel that it is an important issue that needs addressing.

To learn more about the work of the **Corcoran Unified School District**, please have a look at their web site <http://www.corcoran.k12.ca.us/>

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Finally, I closed out the week by meeting with **Sergeant Cano** and **Captain Cleek** of the **Tulare Chapter** of the **Latino Peace Officers Association (LPOA)**.

We discussed a number of pertinent law enforcement issues, especially focusing on the issues affecting law enforcement officials in the **30th Assembly District**.

If you would like to read more about the **LPOA** and its work, please take a moment and view their web site at <http://www.geocities.com/lpoa2001/>

ONGOING ACTIVITY

When you have some free time, please join **Pastor Jordan, Isiah Crompton**, and other community members in their effort to get out the message about stopping violence in our communities. They walk from house to house every Saturday, knocking on doors and explaining to people the importance of keeping an eye on and working against violence in our neighborhoods. I would like to invite everyone, from individuals, to families, to groups of friends, and any concerned organizations to join us in making our streets safer for our families and our children. For more information on the **Stop the Violence** campaign, please contact **Pastor Jordan at (661) 472-2637**.

COMMUNITY GROUP HIGHLIGHT

The **California Coalition for Youth's (CCY)** mission is to be the **PLACE** that improves and empowers the lives of California's youth by:

- **Partnering** with youth
- **Linking** with youth-serving programs throughout California
- **Advocating** for youth rights
- **Connecting** youth to resources
- **Educating** communities, policymakers, and stakeholders

The **CCY** also coordinates a statewide, toll free, 24-hour, confidential phone crisis line available to young people between the ages of 12-24, and concerned friends and family members. **CCY** provides crisis intervention counseling on many issues including family problems, sexual assault, eating disorders, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, suicide and more. **CCY** offers support, encouragement, and referrals to youth needing assistance or in crisis situations. The **California Youth Crisis Line** connects an average of 12,000 callers with vital resources annually. Agencies as well as young adults from every county in California use the **Crisis Line's toll-free number, 1-800-843-5200**.

COMMUNITY GROUP HIGHLIGHT

The **California Youth Connection (CYC)** is a statewide organization comprised of foster youth, both past and present, who work diligently in formulating policies and advocating for legislation on behalf of California's foster youth population.

For more information on **CYC**, please visit their web site at <http://www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc/> or simply call **CYC's** statewide office at 415-442-5060.

INTERESTING LINK

I would like to direct everyone to a very interesting and educational web site, www.leginfo.ca.gov. In accessing this web site, which is even used by many seasoned legislative veterans in Sacramento, people can learn more about the legislative process and the kinds of bills being carried by members of the legislature. People can also find the contact information for a given member....or if you do not know who your representatives are, you can find out that information, too.

I hope you check this site out, because it can serve as a tremendous resource, especially for students working on their social studies and civics homework and projects!!!!

NEED HOMEWORK HELP?

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any time between **1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** and follow the simple setup instructions.

MEETING REQUESTS

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov.

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the fall internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Matt Rogers** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov.

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1492: Christopher Columbus signed a contract with Spain to find a passage to Asia and the Indies.

1629: Horses were first imported into the colonies by the American Massachusetts Bay Colony.

1947: Jackie Robinson (Brooklyn Dodgers) performed a bunt for his first major league hit.

1961: About 1,400 U.S.-supported Cuban exiles invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in an attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro. It was an unsuccessful attack.

1964: The Ford Motor Company unveiled its new Mustang model.

1969: In Los Angeles, Sirhan Sirhan was convicted of assassinating U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

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